

IN THE CLAIMS

1-6 (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The implant assembly of claim 24 wherein at least one of the bone plate and the fastener are formed of a biodegradable material.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The implant assembly of claim 24 wherein the fastener is formed of a polymeric material comprising homopolymers, co-polymers, and oligomers of polyhydroxy acids, polyesters, polyorthoesters, polyanhydrides, polydioxanone, polydioxanediones, polyesteramides, polyaminoacids, polyamides, polycarbonates, polylactide, polyglycolide, tyrosine-derived polycarbonate, polyanhydride, polyorthoester, polyphosphazene, polyethylene, polyester, polyvinyl alcohol, polyacrylonitrile, polyamide, polytetrafluorethylene, poly-paraphenylene terephthalamide, polyaryletherketones, polyetherketones, cellulose, carbon fiber reinforced composite, and mixtures thereof.

10. (Previously Presented) The implant assembly of claim 24 wherein at least one of the fastener and the bone plate are formed of a polymer comprising monomeric repeating units derived from d-lactic acid, l-lactic acid, glycolic acid, caprolactone, hydroxy buteric acid, hydroxy valeric acid, and mixtures thereof.

11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The implant assembly of claim 24 wherein the opening is an elongate opening.

14. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 24 comprising a plurality of openings.

15-23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) An implant assembly comprising:
a bone plate having at least one opening extending therethrough, and
a fastener received within said opening and having a proximal head, a distal bone-engaging portion, and a shaft therebetween, wherein at least one of the fastener and the bone plate include an adhesive to fixedly interengage the fastener to the bone plate.

25. (Original) The implant assembly of claim 24 wherein at least one of the bone plate and the fastener includes a pressure sensitive adhesive.

26. (Original) The implant assembly of claim 24 wherein the adhesive is selected from the group consisting of: epoxies, acrylates, cyanoacrylates, polyesters, polyolefins, polyurethanes, silicone adhesives, and mixtures thereof.

27. (Original) The implant assembly of claim 24 wherein the adhesive is a two-part adhesive and wherein a first part of the adhesive is provided on the bone plate and a second part of the adhesive is provided on the fastener, whereby contact of the bone plate with the fastener combines the first part and the second part of the adhesive.

28. (Original) The implant assembly of claim 24 wherein the bone plate is flexible to allow articulation of adjacent bone structures.

29. (Original) The implant assembly of claim 24 wherein the bone plate is configured to connect adjacent vertebrae bodies.

30-33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A method of fixedly securing a ~~bone screw~~ fastener to a bone plate, said method comprising:

surgically preparing bone tissue in need of repair for receipt of a bone plate;

placing a bone plate proximal to said bone tissue in need of repair, said bone plate having at least one opening therethrough; and

inserting a bone screw through the at least one opening and into the bone tissue, wherein at least one of the fastener and the bone plate include an adhesive to fixedly secure the fastener to the bone plate.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein the adhesive is a pressure-sensitive adhesive.

36. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein the adhesive is selected from the group consisting essentially of: epoxies, acrylates, cyanoacrylates, polyesters, polyolefins, polyurethanes, silicones, and mixtures thereof.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34 wherein said inserting comprises deforming a portion of the bone plate or the fastener with a solvent.

38. (Original) The method of claim 34 comprising applying said adhesive to the fastener.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 comprising applying said adhesive to the bone plate.

40. (Previously Presented) An orthopedic implant assembly comprising:

a bone plate comprising at least one opening therethrough; and

a fastener formed of a non metallic material and comprising a head and an opposite tissue engaging portion, wherein said fastener is received through the at least one opening and bonded to the bone plate.

41. (Previously Presented) The implant assembly of claim 40 wherein the bone plate comprises a metallic material.

42. (Previously Presented) The implant assembly of claim 40 wherein at least one of the bone plate and the fastener includes a pressure sensitive adhesive.

43. (Previously Presented) The implant assembly of claim 42 wherein the adhesive is selected from the group consisting of: epoxies, acrylates, cyanoacrylates, polyesters, polyolefins, polyurethanes, silicone adhesives, and mixtures thereof.

44. (Previously Presented) The implant assembly of claim 40 wherein the adhesive is a two-part adhesive and wherein a first part of the adhesive is provided on the bone plate and a second part of the adhesive is provided on the fastener, whereby contact of the bone plate with the fastener combines the first part and the second part of the adhesive.

45. (Previously Presented) The implant assembly of claim 40 wherein the fastener is solvent bonded to the bone plate.

46. (Previously Presented) The implant assembly of claim 40 wherein the bone plate comprises a first polymeric material.

47. (Previously Presented) The implant assembly of claim 46 wherein the fastener comprises a second polymeric material that is intermixed with the first polymeric material of the bone plate.

48. (Previously Presented) The implant assembly of claim 46 wherein the bone plate is flexible to allow articulation of adjacent bone structures.

49. (Previously Presented) The implant assembly of claim 40 wherein the bone plate is configured to connect to adjacent vertebrae bodies.

50. (Previously Presented) The implant assembly of claim 40 wherein the bone plate comprises a composite material.